



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
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MISSOURI SENATE GIVES FIRST-ROUND APPROVAL TO LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REFORM MISSOURI'S MAP TESTS

JEFFERSON CITY -- The Missouri Senate today gave first-round approval to reform legislation sponsored by Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, that would make a variety of improvements to the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), bringing Missouri's educational standards into line with the new requirements established under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

"I call this bill 'The Truthful Testing Act' because it establishes a new standard that more accurately indicates what our children are learning," said Nodler. "Right now, Missouri's standards are not consistent with national standards."

The No Child Left Behind Act, passed in 2001, brought new accountability measures to schools and expanded student testing requirements.

Senate Bill 1080 would require that by June 30, 2006, the State Board of Education align the performance standards of the MAP test so that the performance standards meet, but do not exceed, the performance standards of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam.

"Missouri's current testing is creating an isolated atmosphere for our state's educators," Nodler said. "We want a test to aid education, not one that serves as an obstacle."

Other changes made under this bill:

- Institute yearly examination of students in the required subject areas as established by federal standards.
- Administer any other adjustments necessary in order to aid the state in conforming to federal standards.

Twenty-six senators co-sponsored SB 1080, which has been endorsed by virtually all of Missouri's educational organizations including the Missouri State Teacher's Association, Missouri School Board's Association and the Missouri National Education Association.

“Teachers support the idea of testing, they just don’t support the MAP test in its current form,” said Nodler. “This reform measure tells the teachers of Missouri that Missouri lawmakers are listening to them.”

After a final Senate vote, this bill will be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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